

The Groundplane



Join SBARA members at for a pre-meeting social dinner. at the La Piñata Mexican Restaurant.
Time: 6:00PM — Date: April 8th. — Address: 39136 Paseo Padre Pkwy. Next to the Radio Shack store (In the Raley's shopping center)

President's Message — By Al Rendon WT6K

SBARA's 2005 calendar is filling up with a wide variety of activities and the year is turning out to be a busy one for active SBARA members. As mentioned last month, SBARA is having its first workshop of the year. On April 30th SBARA is sponsoring a workshop to build an Optimum Wideband Antenna designed - 6 Element - 2M Yagi with a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch square 6063 aluminum boom and elements made with 3/16th inch diameter 6061-T6 solid aluminum rod. By attending this workshop you will receive a professionally designed and produced antenna with over 10dBi of gain and VSWR of less than 1.4: 1 over the entire 144 to 148 MHz 2M band. All elements can be easily removed for storage, transporting and quickly assembled for portable operation. Of course you can permanently install it outside at your QTH as you main 2M antenna since it is all aluminum construction. Hurry and sign-up for the workshop on the SBARA webpage under 'SBARA Store'. For your convenience here is the link to the sign-up form:

Click on this link [Yagi Workshop](#) and it will take you to the pdf form. Print it out and send it in. SBARA Workshops are lots of fun and you learn valuable skills for building radio equipment. Don't miss this excellent workshop.

I have exciting news regarding SBARA's 2005 Field Day. We have purchased an Elecraft K2 Transceiver for the FD Raffle Prize. It will be an assembled Elecraft K2 Transceiver thanks to the generous offer of Mike Studer K6EEP. This will be the third K2 he has built. The K2 Covers 80M through 10M and can operate on CW, SSB and all Digital modes. The K2 receiver is still one of the best performers even compared to transceivers costing \$10,000! Go to the Elecraft webpage <http://www.elecraft.com/> and select 'Rig Comparisons' from the menu on the upper left to see for yourself.

Back by popular demand are T-shirts with the SBARA logo on the front. SBARA is now taking orders for the new SBARA T-shirts. We are planning to stop taking orders on

May 15th and purchase shirts for the number of orders we've received. Your SBARA T-shirt will be ready for you to pickup at the June SBARA meeting, just in time for Field Day. If you are one of the people who have been asking for a SBARA T-shirt, here is your chance. Fill out the order form on the SBARA webpage under 'SBARA Store'. For your convenience here is the link to the form. You can click on the link below to pull up the pdf-formatted form and print it out on your printer. [T-Shirt form](#).

(cont'd. on page 2)

April Program

This month's program will be on the important subject of antennas. Someone once advised that acquiring the best antenna you can afford gives your station the best bang for your bucks. Well, don't miss this exciting presentation regarding this 'key topic' for setting up a successful station.

April 2005
Volume 6 Issue 4

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Special points of interest:

- Know the Five Words
- Work KU6S
- Win a K2
- Why the K2 is HOT!
- Antenna Workshop
- I'am a HAM?

BAKER TO VEGAS RELAY RACE IS NEARLY HERE

There is still time to volunteer for this exciting 120 mile relay race for law enforcement officers. The race starts in Baker, CA. and ends in Las Vegas, NV. Ham radio operators are needed to provide support for the Fremont Police Department. Call Elise Ciralo, KF6TQB, at 796-3916 or check out the web site at www.baker2vegas.org

UPCOMING EVENTS			
DATE	TIME	EVENT	DETAILS
APRIL 8 th	6:00PM	PRE-MEETING DINNER	LA PINATA
APRIL 8 th	7:30PM	SBARA GENERAL MEETING	LOG PERIODIC ANTENNA
APRIL 9 th	8:00PM	WORK KU6S - 10 METERS	28.400 MHz
APRIL 9 th	10:00AM	BAKER TO VEGAS	
		TRACKER BOX WORKSHOP	JIM WOOD'S HOUSE
APRIL 23 rd	23 rd 24 th	BAKER TO VEGAS	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
APRIL 30 th	1:00PM	SBARA YAGI WORKSHOP	AL RENDON'S HOUSE
MAY 6 th	7:30PM	SBARA BOARD MEETING	AL RENDON'S HOUSE
MAY 7 th	5:00PM	FREMONT T-HUNT	
MAY 13 th	7:30PM	SBARA GENERAL MEETING	VETERANS HALL NILES

President's Message (cont'd.)

(from page 1)

Also, the order form has more information about the shirt design so take a look.

This month's 'Work KU6S' and receive one of the beautiful new QSL cards will be on April 9th between 8PM and 9PM on 28.400MHz (10 Meters) USB. Mike Studer will be the operator. He will be working you on his new Force12 Yagi Beam antenna. He will be operating on the Technician segment of the

band so everyone with the proper license class and a 10M rig should take this opportunity to work KU6S and receive the new QSL card.

band so everyone with the proper license class and a 10M rig should take this opportunity to work KU6S and receive the new QSL card.

Don't miss this chance to get your station on the air and have some fun. Hope you are or will be getting involved in one of the many activities that your leadership team has organized for 2005 and have some fun with your hobby.

73, Al WT6K

March Program (cont'd.)

(from page 1)

Our speaker will be Ray Gaschk, W6FYA of Elk Antennas located in Walnut Creek, California. Ray has designed UHF/VHF Log-Periodic antennas that are manufactured by Elk Antenna and is an expert on the subject. Ray will go through a short description of antennas, how they work and why you need them if you want to communicate over any distance. Then he will go into more details of the Log Periodic antenna. In doing so he will show various antenna patterns so the audience can see the difference in directivity between antennas. Come to the April 8th SBARA meeting and learn more about antennas. April 8th SBARA meeting and learn more about antennas.

Coming Events

SBARA is having its first workshop of the year. On April 30th SBARA is sponsoring a workshop to build an Optimum Wideband Antenna designed - 6 Element - 2M Yagi with a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch square 6063 aluminum boom and elements made with 3/16th inch diameter 6061-T6 solid aluminum rod. By attending this workshop you will receive a professionally designed and produced antenna with over 10dBi of gain and VSWR of less than 1.4: 1 over the entire 144 to

148 MHz 2M band. All elements can be easily removed for storage, transporting and quickly assembled for portable operation. Of course you can permanently install it outside at your QTH as your main 2M antenna since it is all aluminum construction. Hurry and sign-up for the workshop on the SBARA webpage under 'SBARA Store'. For your convenience here is the link to the sign-up form:

http://www.qsl.net/sbara/sbarastore/2M_6EL_YagiWorkshopOrderForm.pdf

Click on this link and it will take you to the pdf form. Print it out and send it in. SBARA Workshops are lots of fun and you learn valuable skills for building radio equipment. Don't miss this excellent workshop.

April Raffle Prize — Gene Arrillaga — KF6ZYD

IC 2100H 144 MHz FM TRANSCEIVER—Features include: 55W of transmit power with 3 power levels to choose from 50W, 10W and 5W. More information can be found at <http://www.hamradio.com/> Enter ic2100h in the left hand search box to learn everything there is to know. There will be additional prizes as warranted.

ICOM 2100H 2 Meter FM Transceiver



Know the Five Words

If you want to experience the thrill of operating [HF](#) radio and making friends around the world on the air then you need to know the five words. Follow the HF link to the story!

Secretary News — By Don Gintel— KG6SBE

The weather was great and that brought out a lot of Hams. The food went from Chinese to Mexican and we had a very nice turn out at the meeting.

First things first the Restaurant was a good choice approx. 19 showed up for the dinner at La Pinata Mexican before the meeting.

Al Rendon WT6K our President called the meeting to order to approx. 30 Hams in attendance. He spoke about the upcoming Yagi Workshop, he also advised the group that SBARA is now taking orders for a new Club T-Shirt light Gray in color with the SBARA Logo on the left side, contact Sam Severs WS6S for order information. Al also advised the members that the new QSL Cards for the club station KU6S are in, and if you were lucky to be at the meeting it was announced that the following day on Saturday between the hours of 4pm-5pm on 146.415 Simplex you would have a chance of getting one of the cards. On Saturday James Lee N1DDK and his daughter further Ham operator Margot with the permission of the club used the club Call Sign KU6S, for any Ham that made contact with the station was sent a QSL Card. I

think the last number of contacts to the station was 18 with the longest distance going to Art Samulson W6VV in San Francisco, yes on simplex. For those of you that made contact and stayed for the entire hour I have to give best regards to Margot for a great job, and also to James Lee for helping her once in a while, I hope she goes for her ham ticket real soon. I am sure we will give another opportunity to get a QSL Card, but it will be announced at further meetings. Sam Severs WS6S gave the Treasurer's report and also some new information about renewal for ARRL, if your membership for ARRL is coming up you can now renew thru SBARA and ARRL will send us back money for each renewal, great fund raiser. So don't forget renew with SBARA.

Jim Wood KE6IVA reported that the groundwork for the 2005 SBARA Field Day is set for June 24-26 2005, same place at Central Park behind Area B. Starting on the 24th at 10 am and ending on the 26th at approx 2 pm. Also Jim reported on the Baker to Vegas Race, which will be held on April 23, 2005, and before you ask yes he is still looking for a number of volunteers, our own Fremont Police Department took second

place last year and is looking for 1st Place this year. As the evening started to come to an end we held the evening raffle, the first ticket that was picked was our own Sam Servers WS6S, who told everyone that he would pass and give someone else a chance to win the radio so Gary McCulley KD6TKV won the VX-150 2 meter handheld radio, and Sam Servers WS6S took the MFJ mag mount antenna and Bill Artelt WB9YVM won a dozen Krispy Kreme Doughnuts and the Saratoga hat went to Mike Studer K6EEP. General Information: CERT in Union City is going to hold classes for 5 Saturdays Beginning April 23, 2005 from 9am to 1pm CERT in Fremont is holding a number of classes so check on the web site Fremont Cert.org for more information. To end the evening Al Rendon surprised everyone with a new event we held an auction: Two items were auctioned off, a small 486 Laptop and a Computer Monitor. Both items went fast and for a fair price, if you what to know more come to the next meeting on the second Friday at the Vet's Hall in Niles, also don't forget the pre-dinner before the meeting.

73's see you all next month

Don Gintel KG6SBE

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

SBARA is now taking orders for the new SBARA T-shirts with the SBARA logo on the front. We are planning to stop taking order on May 15th and purchase shirts for the number of orders we've received. Your SBARA T-shirt will be ready for you to pickup at the June SBARA meeting, just in time for Field Day. If you are one of the people who have been asking for a SBARA T-shirt, here is your chance. Fill out the order form on the SBARA webpage under 'SBARA Store'. For your convenience here is the link to the form. You can click on the link below to pull up the pdf-formatted form and print it out on your printer. Also, the order form has more information about the shirt design so take a look.

<http://www.qsl.net/sbara/sbarastore/T-shirtIndividualOrderForm.pdf>

ELECRAFT K2 - FIRST PRIZE FOR SBARA FIELD DAY RAFFLE

Plan to attend SBARA's 2005 Field Day June 26th, 27th & 28th. Why? Because you could win an Elecraft K2 HF Transceiver. That's right. SBARA has purchased an Elecraft K2 Transceiver for the FD Raffle first prize. The K2 Covers 80M through 10M and can operate on CW, SSB and all Digital modes. The K2 receiver is still one of the best performers even compared to transceivers costing \$10,000! Go to the Elecraft webpage <http://www.elecraft.com/> and select 'Rig Comparisons' from the menu on the upper left to see for yourself. Also, read Mike Studer's (K6EEP) article on the advantages of a K2 in the April Groundplane that will be out next week. Don't miss this chance to win an Elecraft K2 for your HF station.



Owner Comments On The Elecraft K2 — Mike Studer—K6EEP

I have owned my K2 for several years now. I heard Eric's (from Elecraft) presentation at a SBARA meeting and it really got my attention. Then I read the ARRL rig comparisons and I just had to buy one. Here's the link:
http://www.elecraft.com/K2_perf.htm#Main%20RX%20Table

I like building kits. I have built a Heathkit HW-101 transceiver and a SB-200 linear that worked very well. The Elecraft kit is pretty easy to build. The basic kit has 3 printed circuit boards. Two hide under the rigs faceplate and one that is the main board. There are lots of parts to install and several toroids to wind by hand. So it is not an easy kit. The toroids give many people problems so Elecraft now sells them prewound if you like. The fastest I have built a K2 to date is in about 32 hours. That's actual soldering time. I took breaks to eat and sleep in there. I did some final tweaking that took another hour. There are people who will build your radio for you if you like.

Here is the link to the Elecraft mailing list. If you have ANY questions post here and you will have an answer in no time at all.
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/elecraft>

Main features I like about the K2 are these. Very low noise level. This makes weak signals much eas-

ier to pick out. Very lower power consumption on receive. Which really helps when you are running off a battery. Small size. This beats dragging some big ham radio boat anchor around when you go portable. Easy to upgrade. Elecraft adds new modules frequently. And you only have to add what you need.

The K2 is an excellent portable radio. I use mine on Field Day every year.

The basic K2 kit is CW only and puts out 15 watts of power. You can add all kinds of neat upgrades to it. Like automatic antenna tuners, SSB, 100 watt amplifier, DSP, internal battery power (for 15W version), etc. And a K2 in it's worst case configuration draws 200mA on receive. My Icom 756 Pro draws about 4 amps on receive! A note on the automatic antenna tuners here.

Elecraft has 2 versions. One is internal and only handles 15 watts. The other is external and can handle 100 watts. You can buy a second cabinet and put the 100 watt amplifier and the related tuner in it. It's an ordering option.

We actually ran a test at Field Day one year where we took a K2 and swapped it with another manufacturers radio. (The things you do at 3AM to keep you awake on Field Day. hihi) So on the same antenna the K2 could hear many many more stations than the other radio did. This is mainly due to it's very low

noise floor. What do I mean by this noise level stuff? Ok, when you turn on your radio and the S-meter jumps to S-9 with no signals heard that's your noise floor. So if you wanted to hear other stations they have to beat S-9 just so your radio can hear them. Now noise levels vary greatly with Sunspot activity etc. But if you take the same antenna and connect it to 2 different radios one right after another and note the S-meter levels it gives you a pretty good idea of each radio's noise floor. (use the same frequency during your tests.) Just note the S-meter readings for each radio. The low number wins. The K2 wins this test when compared to many commercially available radios.

I have surprised many people on the air with my K2. I get comments like "You are the first K2 I have heard. It sounds great!" (I was on SSB testing the Heil microphone for that one.) And CW comments are good as well. Many other hams ask questions in QSO to see how much I like it. I think they are considering buying one themselves. That happens a lot.

I am very happy with mine. In fact now I have 2! My new one is set up for pure portable QRP work. It has the internal battery and antenna tuner.

73 and good DXing,
Mike K6EEP

Working KU6S — James Lee — N1DDK

SBARA and other ham community members had a chance to work KU6S on Saturday afternoon March 12'th from 4:00-5:00 PM on 146.415 FM (simplex). This was originally conceived as an idea to allow our members a chance to receive one of the nice KU6S QSL cards. The central Fremont QTH of N1DDK was selected for its central location and 50-foot tower as a good place for the station. Shortly before setting up for the afternoon's operation I tested my 2M Ringo Ranger up on a 20-foot mast. It showed a 3:1 SWR, not its usual 1.2:1 (most likely a feedline problem) so I decided to put up my Commet tri-bander at the top of the tower. The antenna and feedline I've been using for field day went up easily and worked well. Would anyone like to buy a slightly used 2-meter Ringo Ranger? To make the operating more interested I enlisted the help of my daughter Margot, age 10, to be the operator. Since this was a club station event, it made perfect sense to use a non-ham operator and a control operator.

We started with a little CQ script I wrote down for her and I logged and coached while she operated. She worked 18 stations, one via relay in the 1-hour operating window. There were a few moments of dead air when I was coaching her and a few calls she "stepped-on" but all generally went well.

I would like to thank all the operators who "checked-in". Sunday we filled out the QSL cards and put them in the mail on Monday. All the stations checking in should have received their QSL cards. It was a good experience for Margot since she said she "had fun". It was also a good experience for me since I knew what to do but I had never thought about how to coach an operator. Again, I would like to thank all the stations for checking-in and being patient with an inexperienced operator.

Keep your eye on the ground plane for additional dates times and frequencies to work KU6S. 73's James.

GET YOU FREE SAMPLE

SBARA has just received a large shipment of AJAX antenna grease. It is guaranteed to improve the performance of you HF, UHF or VHF antennas. It especially works great on mobile magnetic mounted antennas. QRP operators swear by it. The directions for use say "rub a very thin coat on the radiating portion of your antenna and you'll be amazed at how the ERP (effective radiated power) is increase two-fold."

SBARA got a great buy on a boxcar load of 2oz cans. It is available for all members to improve their antenna performance. It is a one-time opportunity. You will not find this product at HRO. Contact one of the SBARA technical staff for your free sample and a more technical explanation of how this 'slippery' substance 'frees up the electrons' in the E-Plane to improve antenna performance.



Work KU6S and earn a QSL card



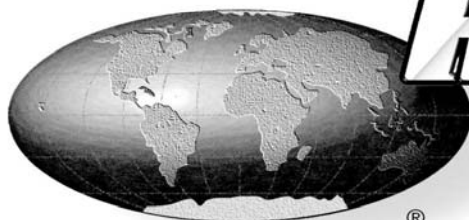
Margot Lee - KU6S Operator

DATE	TIME	FREQUENCY	OPERATOR	EMISSION
April 9th	8PM to 9PM	28.400 MHZ	MIKE STUDER	USB
May 14th	8PM to 9PM	3830 KHz	SAM SEVERS	LSB

Would you like a QSL card confirming you have worked the SBARA station KU6S? So many members have operated as KU6S at Field Day yet so few have ever worked KU6S from their home station. Take a look at the new SBARA QSL card and I'm sure you will want one for your very own card collection. All you have to do is contact KU6S from your home or Mobile station using your call and you will be sent a card confirming the contact.



12 STORE BUYING POWER



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John, N5EHP, Mgr.
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- 200 Mems., CTCSS
- VC-H1 Messaging Control

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- 200 Memories • Built in 1200/9600 baud TNC
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Great Price!



FT-857D

- Ultra compact HF, VHF, UHF
- 100w HF/6M, 50w 2M, 20w UHF
- DSP included • 32 color display
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- All mode HF/6M/2M/70CM
- 100W HF/6M, 50W/2M, 20W/440 MHz
- AF-DSP • Plug and Play Filters - No Soldering
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Low Pricing!



IC-756 PRO II All mode Transceiver

- 160-6M @ 100W • Enhanced Rx performance
- 32 bit IF DSP • SSB/CW Synchronous tuning
- Enhanced 5 inch color TFT w/spectrum scope
- Selectable IF filter shapes for SSB & CW
- Multiple DSP controlled AGC loops
- Advanced CW functions
- 101 alphanumeric memories

The Ultimate Radio!

ALINCO



DJ-196T 2M/HT

- 5 Watt out
- 40 memories
- Alphanumeric display
- CTCSS + DCS built in
- "S" meter
- Auto Dialer

Low Pricing!



DR-135TP 2M mobile

- 50 Watt out • Alpha numeric display
- 100 mems • Built-in TNC 1200 & 9600 Baud
- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 port
- CTCSS/DCS Encode/Decode built in

Low Pricing!

Why Radio Amateurs are Called "HAMS"

From Florida Skip Magazine - 1959

Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called "HAMS"?

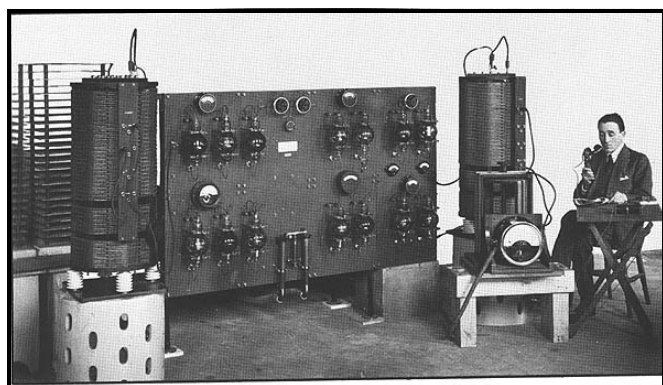
Well, it goes like this: The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station call of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were ALBERT S. HYMAN, BOB ALMY, and POOGIE MURRAY. At first they called their station "HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY". Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to "HYALMU", using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1910 some confusion resulted between signals from the amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO". They decided to use only the first letter of each name, and the station call became "HAM".

In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio, amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial **WIRELESS REGULATION BILL** as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of the committee hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed with the thesis that he asked Hyman to appear before the committee. Albert Hyman took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the bill imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the **WIRELESS REGULATION BILL** and the little station "HAM" became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. The bill finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the "...poor little station HAM". That's how it all started.

You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station "HAM" with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and probably to the end of time in radio, an amateur is a "HAM".



An experimental 6.5 kW broadcast transmitter at the Chelmsford works. Mr. W.T. Ditcham may be seen to the right of the picture. Mr. Ditcham was the first man to speak across the Atlantic from east to west.

Handy Web Links

SBARA Web Site	http://www.qsl.net/sbara
ARRL Main Site	http://www.arrl.org/
ARRL SCV Division	http://www.arrl.org/sections/SCV.html
ARRL East Bay Section	http://www.pdarrl.org/ebsec/index.html
ARRL Contest Page	http://www.arrl.org/contests
Contest Calendar	http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal
Callsign Lookup (QRZ)	http://www.qrz.com/
Vanity Callsign Info	http://www.vanityhq.com/
IRLP Main Page	http://www.irlp.net/
AMSAT	http://www.amsat.org/
FCC Services	http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur

SBARA on the Internet at

<http://www.qsl.net/sbara>

On the Air at 147.015 + PL 103.5

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW - 147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5
 WA6PWW - 223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2
 WA6PWW - 442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2
 N6OXR - 146.94 -600Khz, PL 123.0
 N6OXR - 441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0
 ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm - 147.015 + PL 103.5

Groundplane SBARA Newsletter Copyright 2005 SBARA

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is six days prior to the end of the previous month. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio@comcast.net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines. The opinions expressed in the Groundplane are strictly those of the authors.

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Founded 1974

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The Ground Plane



SBARA monthly meeting:
April 8th, 2005
at the Veterans Hall in the
Niles District
Meeting Details in this Issue

At 6:00PM prior to the April 8th
SBARA meeting we will be meeting for
dinner at La Piñata Restaurant. Join
your fellow SBARA members for a so-
cial meal. La Piñata is located in the
Raley's Shopping Center on Paseo Pa-
dre.

The Ground Plane—KU6S
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